From: Kirby, Josh
To: 'microsoft.atr(a)usdoj.gov'
Date: 1/23/02 8:36am
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

> Section III.E / III.I.1-5
>
> I believe that this is an excellent first step to the opening of the
> protocols used by Windows (eg SMB/etc). The difficulty lies in that their
> are very few operating systems competing for the desktop these days. One
> that is the freely available Linux system. It would seem to me that the
> restrictions to be provided by Microsoft would limit the availability of
> details that would allow the Samba group to develop their freely available
> software after getting this information.
>
> Microsoft has such market clout now that its protocols are the standards.
> Further it tends to embrace and extend any current standard to its own
> desire, hindering efforts at interoperability between other operating
> systems and its own. Perhaps a more far reaching idea would be that
> Microsoft open all of its document formatting standards (eg Microsoft
> Office) which should help ensure the development of a host of competing
> products in the industry.
>
> It is my personal belief that these 'Microsoft Standards' (if you will)
> should be fully open and available to the community at large. I believe
> this would only help to spur competition in the industry that is currently
> lacking.
>
>
>
> Joshua Kirby
> Southwest Power Pool
> IT Specialist III
> (501) 614-3306
> jkirby@spp.org
>